

monumental governmental activities, is a classic. His great work under the Department of Agriculture is so well known that all classes of people regard the name of "Wiley" as one to conjure by. So great has been his work and so vast his field of endeavor, that few realize concretely just what he has done. With becoming modesty, the writer has submerged himself in his book, but they must be blind, indeed, who cannot see that such a work could not have been written without the brilliant researches of Harvey W. Wiley.

It is a valuable volume for all those interested in the science of foods, and, while not indispensable to the practising physician, should not be overlooked by him if he wishes to keep abreast of a question which is claiming more and more attention from the world at large, more familiarly known as the General Public. E. H. G.

THE NERVOUS LIFE. By C. E. PARTRIDGE, Ph.D., Formerly Lecturer in Clark University. Pp. 216. New York: Sturgis & Walton Company, 1911.

THIS is a first-rate work. Within the last few years there have been many popular books on the different "mental worries" and other nervous phenomena, which, according to their authors, seem to be the burden of the human race. The author approaches his work from the standpoint of both disease and health, and argues that the same principles of living are applicable to both. He first takes up the question of the normal life of the individual and the causes which tend to bring on a nervous condition, and then discusses the cure by normal readjustment through normal living. Dr. Partridge has treated the matter in a thoroughly common-sense fashion, and, after all, there is no higher praise than this.

The reviewer, a neurologist, modestly disagrees with the following: "The day has come when we can no longer go to the doctor to be cured of all our ills. Ills have multiplied faster than the doctor's medicines, and personalities have grown so varied and complex that everyone must, to a certain extent, work out his own salvation. It is, indeed, in the most intimate and personal parts of one's life, where neither physician nor other outsider can be competent to advise, that the most pressing of problems are to be found and the best work of self-study can be done." It is true that ills have multiplied faster than doctors' medicines, but then it must be recalled that the up-to-date physician who understands the modern psychological method of treatment of nervous diseases does not give a medicine for every ill. He knows better. He treats the patient. Again, it is all well enough to state that the most pressing

personal problems must be settled by one's self; but suppose the person is not competent to settle this question by himself, what then? Would it not, after all, be best for the patient with mental ills to go to a competent physician who can show him how to solve these problems?

Even such books as this cannot settle all questions for all persons. As a matter of fact, no better argument can be given for the increase of nervousness than the quantities of books which have been published and the many cults which have arisen. Every day one is confronted with some new "pathy" or new method of curing disease. This is partially because many physicians do not understand or do not realize that to treat nervous diseases one should treat the person, and by treating the person one does not mean giving medicines, but handling the patient psychologically; but the principal reason for the growth of osteopaths, Christian scientists, and others is because human nature, at least so far as the neurologist sees it, is frail. (The reviewer, who is a disciple of Bernard Shaw and incidentally of his "Doctor's Dilemma," does not claim this as an original discovery.) If the doctor were to promise that he could cure every and all diseases as definitely as does the Christian scientist and the osteopath, and if he had the ever-present and most splendidly conceived loop-hole that the Christian scientists have—that is, if one does not get better one does not have sufficient faith—then perhaps we would be on a par with them, but Heaven forbid!

T. H. W.

DIE BEHANDLUNG DER FRAUENKRANKHEITEN. THE TREATMENT OF DISEASES OF WOMEN. By J. VEIT, M.D., Professor and Director of the University Clinic for Women at Halle. Pp. 242; 34 illustrations. Berlin: S. Karger, 1911.

This book begins with an observation so sensible that one wonders that it should be mentioned, and yet so essentially practical and useful that it lies at the foundation of all success in treating the diseases of women. Veit urges that in these cases the patient be treated from the objective standpoint only, and that the subjective element in the case be reduced to the lowest possible terms. When one considers how misleading are the symptoms often reported honestly or otherwise by women, and into what serious error they sometimes lead, this caution will be appreciated.

The book begins by treating of disinfection, the use of instruments and minor methods of treatment before proceeding to the operative side. Veit urges that before examinations strict antisepsis should be observed, a caution which is often neglected. He still seems to have considerable faith in the so-called "local treat-